

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) An escalator, comprising a truss, a step-band with steps or a pallet-band with pallets for the transportation of persons and/or objects, a balustrade on each side of the step-band held by a balustrade base and having a handrail, and a handrail-drive driving the handrails, characterized in that the handrail-drive includes ~~means for engaging and driving the handrails on an outside of the handrail~~ a friction-wheel for driving each of the handrails by frictional engagement on an outside, at least one press-on roller arranged on an inside of each handrail for pressing the handrail against the friction-wheel, and a drive-wheel for driving the friction-wheel by frictional engagement.

2-4 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The escalator according to claim 1 ~~3 or 4~~, further characterized in that the drive-wheel is arranged on a step chain-wheel.

6. (currently amended) The escalator according to claim 1 ~~2, 3 or 4~~, further characterized in that the friction-wheels are connected by a shaft for transmitting torque therebetween.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The escalator according to claim 1 ~~2, 3 or 4~~, further characterized in that one of the friction-wheels is driven by a belt of an escalator drive.

9. (new) An escalator, comprising a truss, a step-band with steps or a pallet-band with pallets for the transportation of persons and/or objects, a balustrade on each side of the step-band held by a balustrade base and having a handrail, and a handrail-drive driving the

handrails, characterized in that the handrail-drive includes a friction-wheel for driving each of the handrails by frictional engagement on an outside, and at least one press-on roller arranged on an inside of each handrail for pressing the handrail against the friction-wheel, the friction-wheels being connected by a countershaft having further friction-wheels.

10. (new) The escalator according to claim 9, further characterized in that the handrail-drive includes a drive-wheel for driving the friction-wheel by frictional engagement.

11. (new) The escalator according to claim 9, further characterized in that the handrail-drive includes a drive-wheel for driving the friction-wheel by mechanical engagement.